

If a fire should occur...

- CLOSE the doors to stop the spread of the fire
- SOUND the alarm, alert others to the danger
- GET OUT of the building
- NOTIFY the fire department

DO NOT go back into the building or try to save your stuff.

Clothes, books and papers can be replaced-

**YOU CAN'T!**



Living With Fire is a project to develop campus-oriented fire safety material. It is available through the U.S Fire Administration website at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

Funding for this project was provided by the following organizations committed to reducing the tragic losses caused by fires involving students:

- American Cancer Society
- National Electrical Manufacturers Association
- National Fire Sprinkler Association
- NFPA International
- SimplexGrinnell
- United States Fire Administration
- University of Texas System

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## INFO BULLETIN ON...

# Alcohol and Fire Safety



SCHOOL LOGO HERE

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER  
HERE

### **How much alcohol consumption is there on campus?**

...This is a hard number to quantify. Keeping in mind that in all 50 states the legal drinking age is 21.

According to the Chronicle for Higher Education, there was a 24% increase in alcohol-related arrests between 1997 and 1998.

A trend that is developing on campuses is that of binge drinking. This is defined as which is defined as consuming five drinks in a row for men and four drinks for women.

According to the survey, there is an increasing polarization occurring on campus between the number of drinkers and abstainers. The number of frequent binge drinkers, which is someone who binge drinks three or more times within a two week period, increased from 23% in 1993 to 28% in 1999. At the same time, the number of people abstaining from alcohol increased from 15% to 19% over the same period.

The number of students that are abstaining in drinking and binge drinkers is increasing, while the number of nonbinge and occasional drinkers is decreasing, resulting in a polarization of drinking behavior on campus. While there may be fewer students drinking, those that are, are drinking with more intensity.

As might be expected, fewer underage students drink (63%) than those who are of-age (74%), and on fewer occasions. However, the underage students drink **more** alcohol on each occasion.

According to a 1999 report by the Educational Resource Information Center (ERIC), the prevalence of binge drinking is higher among Greek residents.

### **Campus fires involving alcohol**

**Chapel Hill, North Carolina**...In the 1996 fraternity fire that killed five students, four of them had blood alcohol levels of over 0.14. This fire broke out following a party the evening before, as had the fire in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania where three males were killed.

**Burlington, Vermont**...At a fire in an off-campus house in injured three residents, one seriously. Fire officials found evidence of alcohol in the area where the fire had started.

**Amherst, Massachusetts**...a fire the day following a party destroyed the fraternity. There were large numbers of empty beer cans. The smoke detectors had all been covered with bags so they would not activate during the party.

### **Students who participate in binge drinking**

	Men	Women
Greek Residents	86%	80%
Non-Greek Residents	45%	35%
Greeks who became binge drinkers in college	78%	76%
Non-Greeks who became binge drinkers in college	32%	25%

### **Alcohol as a factor in fire**

**deaths**...A government report states that "Approximately one-half of the adults who die in house fires have high BAC (blood alcohol count) values, a finding that is consistent with the disproportionate number of deaths that occur in house fires on weekends, when people tend to consume more alcohol."

This is important when one considers that almost 2/3 of the nation's students live off-campus in houses and apartments.

There is also a probable connection between smoking and drinking. Minnesota has been conducting autopsies on all fire fatalities. In the period from 1993 to 1996 there were 255 deaths caused by fire. Out of these, 30% were found to have positive blood alcohol concentrations. The leading cause of death among this group was smoking materials, which represented 64%, versus the non-alcohol impaired group which had only 37% of the deaths caused by smoking.